

SIX DOLLAR
PER QUARTER

Shipping, for the principal places in
USSIA.

On Sunday, the 21st day of December,
1890, at 11 A.M., the Company's Steamship
"HISEN," Captain K. V. Gassel, with
PASSENGERS, SPECIE & CARGO,
leave this Port as above, Calling at GENOA,
Paris; Orders will be granted till NOON
will be received on Board until 4 p.m.
Passengers until 3 p.m. on 20th
December. (Passengers are not to be sent on Board
until they are at the Agency's Office). Con-
ditions and Value of Passages are required;
Stewards, a Doctor and Stewards
Further Particulars, apply to
MILCHNERS & Co.
Agents,
24th November, 1890.

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 2702.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1890.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

MARRIAGE.

On Tuesday, the 25th November, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, ESTHER A. LEATHERBARROW, to ALFRED GETLEY. No cards.

DEATHS.

On the 23rd October, at Birmingham, HELEN GRAHAM, the beloved wife of George H. Brunst, formerly of Hongkong and Canton.

At Shanghai, on the 17th November, EDITH MINNIE, the beloved wife of Frank Souter.

The Hongkong Telegraph.
HONGKONG, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1890.

THE QUEEN'S NAVY.

If we mistake not the foundering of H.M.S. *Serpent* at the entrance to the Bay of Biscay will be the last straw to break the back of the British public's patience in regard to the Admiralty and its costly vagaries. The foundering of this vessel we must assume to be entirely due to faulty construction, for the question of bad seamanship, which enshrouded the loss of H.M.S. *Captain* in the same locality some years ago cannot, we believe, be raised in this case, as vessels of the class to which the *Serpent* belonged do not carry canvas sufficient to interfere with their stability under any circumstances. The construction department of the Admiralty has certainly gone from bad to worse since Sir Edward Reed, disgusted with its absurd red-tapism and obstructiveness, resigned, and joining the ranks in commercial enterprise, gave that impetus to scientific and practical naval construction which has developed wonderfully during the last decade under his aegis, and now produces models of marine architecture and utility which are the admiration, if not the envy, of the world at large. It may be claimed that Sir Edward Reed, however unpopular he may have been with the Navy and its departments generally—and what reformer is not unpopular?—at all events built stable vessels, which is more than can be said of his successors; and the bitterness of his opponents, be it noted, cannot but acknowledge—with the numerous specimens of naval vessels of his design before them, which form the backbone of the navies of foreign Powers—that had his genius been permitted to work untrammelled in the service of his country, the Navy of England would have been to-day in a far superior position to what we unfortunately find it. Of late apprehension has prevailed in England, that notwithstanding the bland eulogiums of Lord Grosvenor Hamilton in the House of Commons and elsewhere, the Navy is far from being in a satisfactory condition. Hardly a single new vessel now-a-days leaves the Government Dock-yards, but as soon as she is put into commission, or on trial, does not disclose some grave defect or error in her construction or machinery, and the most ludicrous (if we may use the term) part of the whole business is no one is held to blame! Were such a system possible in the commercial world how could the private shipping industries of the nation continue to prosper? A shipowner requiring a vessel orders one to be built according to his requirements, obtains proper guarantees for due performance of the contract, and on completion subjects the vessel to proper trials before definitely accepting it. By the Admiralty, on the contrary, vessels are constructed on a scale of costly extravagance in comparison with that followed in private establishments, and as John Bull "pays the piper," there is not much inducement for economy; the Lords of the Admiralty well knowing of his capacious and well-filled "job" pockets. When completed the vessel is usually found to float with either too great or too little free-board, the boiler bursts, the machinery breaks down, the coal storage is found deficient or a hundred-and-one other mishaps occur, and then it dawns upon "the powers that be" that there is no one who can be held responsible, "better luck next time" is the dictum, and on this "happy-so-lucky" principle, another costly experiment is indulged in at the public expense, only to meet with similar dire results. We repeat that it is doubtful if the indulgent British public, with all their characteristic forbearance will, much longer tolerate such a condition of affairs in regard to the nation's "right arm of defence," upon the efficiency of which the welfare of our vast Empire so largely depends. Something of a more drastic nature than a Royal Commission will be demanded—with the barren results of that held recently on the state and condition of the British Army before them—before the public will be satisfied, and we venture to aver that the best remedy will be found in reducing the Dock-yards to mere repairing depots, except in cases of emergency, and causing the building of its vessels to be left to private enterprise and public tender, in the same manner, as such business is conducted in the United States and other countries. There cannot be a shadow of doubt that the country would materially benefit if such a course were pursued, for with the enormous capital our ship-building firms have at their backs, to faithfully execute and guarantee the work they undertake, the Admiralty would be relieved from charge of a Department which brings upon it nothing but ridicule and well-nigh useless expenditure. It will be readily admitted that the Board of Admiralty have their work badly cut out in controlling and establishing

the general efficiency of the Navy in its multifarious branches without being encumbered by a wasteful, expensive, and certainly inefficient and troublesome construction business.

Whilst on this subject, we may be allowed to dwell, *en passant*, on the point we have assumed—that errors of seamanship are not involved in the issues arising out of the loss of H.M.S. *Serpent*. Indications, however, every now and then crop up, which likewise create the impression that this important branch in the education and training of the Naval officer of the present day has sadly deteriorated, for hardly an evolution is attempted of the most simple character without displaying some fault, some error, some carelessness or some ignorance. Again, it is but a few days since we published a war-vessel's report of a coast voyage made at "a snail's pace" in these admirably surveyed seas, in which the commander excused the extraordinary length of the voyage on the ground of lighthouses not being like mile stones along his entire coast. Taking this and other startling facts into consideration we are justified in coming to the conclusion that if the Admiralty would voluntarily rid themselves of the veritable "man of the sea" they are now over-weighted with, and devote their sole attention to much-needed reforms and improvements in several practical branches of the Service, the country would not only vastly benefit, but would be a good deal safer. The Lords of the Admiralty may with propriety be reminded that "the prosperity of the people and the security of their trade interests, is the source of both the wealth and the glory of all nations." It is with the conviction that the truth of this dictum has found corroboration over and over again in the annals of history, that we feel more than justified in writing thus in the interests of those who are primarily concerned—the masses, not the "classes."

THE SUNDAY LABOUR SCANDAL.

IRRESPECTIVE of its religious side, the vital importance of the Sunday rest question is one which cannot be permitted to remain where it is. Throughout the civilized world, a weekly day of rest is universally acknowledged to be an indispensable physical and moral necessity. The keen race for very existence, and the high pressure rate at which everyday life is now conducted renders it doubtful if enlightened civilization can be maintained without such periodical rest. Labour organizations, which are now the order of the day all over the world, have hitherto devoted their efforts, and with success, towards a reduction of the hours of labour, and even in this direction it is pretty generally accepted that eight hours' work a day is to be the rule in future. With such patent examples before them of what is being done throughout the world in regard to this question, it is indeed remarkable that the Chamber of Commerce should have taken up such an antagonistic attitude to the moderate and just requests of the maritime profession employed in these seas. Not only do we unhesitatingly maintain that the seafaring community are entitled to the privilege of exemption from work on Sunday while in port, on all grounds of justice, expediency and public sentiment, but we think this portion of the community will be found to possess undoubted legitimate rights in this matter, for—irrespective of other facts—in the days of the infancy of this colony strict regulations enforcing such cessation of labour formed a chapter in its laws. By what authority and for what reasons these regulations have been annulled we shall doubtless know when the long promised Ordinance records are published. Then again will arise the question whether a local Ordinance of a Crown colony can override an Imperial Act of Parliament or the Common Law of England, on a matter of vital public concern. However, the Labour movement in general is but another phase of the question under review here. What would the British workman say if any interference were attempted in regard to his Sunday's rest? Would any legislation be possible in regard to such a question in Europe? He would indeed be a very courageous, as well as a very foolish, individual who would publicly advocate such a measure. Such being the case, in the name of common sense and justice, why should members of a profession, who have done so much towards making Great Britain's commercial position what it is to-day, be placed in a disadvantageous position as compared with what they enjoy in "the mother country," merely because one or two harsh and exacting taskmasters contend that they will suffer somewhat in their pockets? Surely those members of the Chamber of Commerce, who so conspicuously defended Sunday work, must be singularly obtuse if they cannot see the untenable nature of the position they have taken up, for while in Europe, we observe, even Emperors sympathizing with the demands of employees and influencing concessions towards moderation and conciliatoriness in Hongkong, the representatives of leading shipping firms and others, whose present prosperity has greatly depended on the labour and loyalty of the British mercantile marine, are the bitterest opponents to moderation and conciliation. This is neither an edifying nor creditable spectacle of colonial justice, and it is pitiable to witness the representative of a leading firm reduced to the extremity of falling back on the Chinese for an excuse. Mr. J. J. Kewick, a well-known seaman, (that the Chinese are quite capable of offering for themselves in this matter also, that as a matter of fact,

the major portion of Chinese traders in the colony appreciate, as fully as they do at Canton and other Treaty ports, the advantages of a weekly day of rest; in fact it is one of the most remarkable as well as one of the most encouraging facts in the premises—this wide appreciation of Sunday rest by the Chinese at all the Treaty ports throughout the Empire.

Every expedient having been tried in Hongkong the question now seems to have resolved itself into this—The principal shipping employers, continuing inadmissible to reason, strong representations have been made to the central Federation in England with which the Mercantile Marine Association is affiliated, and through it an appeal can be made to the British public. Further, there can be but little doubt that common cause in this matter will be the result, and the selfish dominant few be speedily brought to a proper appreciation of their position and impotency—a knowledge of the fact that they are powerless to cause Hongkong to remain much longer the very reverse of a centre of light and civilization in the Far East. Of one thing the officers may rest assured and it is this, that in any struggle that may be forced upon them, the victors will be the coalition that remembers and acts up to the time-worn maxim—"Unity is strength."

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 24th inst. There were present: His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government (Mr. F. Fleming); Mr. W. M. Deane (Acting Colonial Secretary); Mr. S. Brown, (Surveyor-General); Mr. E. J. Ackroyd (Acting Colonial Treasurer); Messrs. C. P. Chater, R. Ryrie, T. J. Whitehead, Ho Kai, (unofficial members), and Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Acting Clerk of Councils.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

NEW CADETS.
His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to refer the matter of a vote of \$400, for salaries of two new Cadets who will arrive shortly from England, on salaries of \$1,500 per annum, each, to the Finance Committee. Agreed.

OUR WATER SUPPLY.
Mr. Whitehead asked—1. Is the Government aware that the water supply to the Robinson Road district was cut off for several days last week, and the no notice whatever was given of the fact as to allow the inhabitants to make provision to obtain water from some other source? Will the Government issue the necessary instructions so that the public may have some notice in future of when, and for how long, it is proposed to cut off the water supply? 2. Is the Government aware that there is a very great scarcity of water in the Western district at the Peak, and will the Government state what measures they are taking, or propose to take, to meet the emergency?

The Acting Colonial Secretary said, he had to inform His Excellency that the water had been cut off for a few hours in Robinson Road, in the neighbourhood of Mr. Leach's house, owing to the carelessness of a turn-cock. As soon as he knew of it he gave the necessary orders for the supply of water to be continued to the residents of that road, and by 2.30 p.m. on the day in question communication in the "mains," which had been interrupted for a few hours, was re-established. It might be necessary at some future time to cut off the supply of water to the houses in Robinson and other roads and when that was so, due notice would be given through the columns of public Press. With reference to the second question, he could inform a member that there had been but one application sent in from a resident of the Western District at the Peak, in a request for the Tramway Company. Steps were being taken to supply the whole of the houses at the Peak upon the plans laid down by the Hon. Chadwick, while recently here. It would take a good deal of time to do all that was intended in connection with the water supply of the Peak; but it afforded him pleasure to state that only to-day 1,978 packages of goods, ordered under the advice of Mr. Chadwick, arrived here by the English mail.

THE NEW BANKRUPTCY BILL.
The Acting Attorney-General moved the first reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Bankruptcy." Passed.

THE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.
The Acting Attorney-General moved the third reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-Houses, and Markets Ordinance 1887." Passed.

THE OVERCROWDING QUESTION.
On rising to discuss the second reading of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Public Health Ordinance of 1887" the Acting Attorney-General pointed out that when the Bill was before the Council on a previous occasion he informed the House that it would probably be necessary for him to bring forward one or two amendments. He thought it better to leave the whole question of overcrowding in the hands of the Sanitary Board and to do so it would be necessary to alter sub-section B of the amended ordinance by striking out the words "to the Governor in Council etc." The Sanitary Board had lately done much useful work in regard to the much vexed question of overcrowding, and he felt sure they were the body most competent to deal promptly and effectively with the evil.

His Excellency said he fully agreed with the suggestions of the Attorney-General. The Sanitary Board had done a great deal of most useful work in the direction indicated, and it was with much pleasure that he endorsed the last speaker's remarks. The object of the amendments was to give the Sanitary Board power to carry out certain necessary reforms.

The proposed amendments were then formally agreed to, and the Bill passed its third reading.

THE ARMS ORDINANCE.
A Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Arms Ordinance of 1889," passed through its final stages.

ADJOURNMENT.
At this juncture the Acting Colonial Secretary proposed that the consideration of the rest of the orders of the day, comprising—
Committee on the Appropriation Bill, 1890.
Committee on the Bill entitled "The Squatters Ordinance, 1890."
Third reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to give further powers to Companies with respect to the Alteration of their Memoranda of Association," be left over to next Monday.

Referring to the Bill drafted with a view to granting companies power to alter their Memoranda of Association the Attorney-General said that he had caused the Bill, in its amended form, to be printed and circulated, and he thought that it would be advisable to postpone the third reading of it until next Monday, as it was so late in the day for consideration of those amendments.

The Council then adjourned until next Monday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.
The Finance Committee then assembled under the Presidency of the Hon. W. M. Deane, C.M.G., Acting Colonial Secretary. The question of the vote of \$400 for the two Cadets who are now en route to Hongkong was referred to the members, and carried *nem. con.*

THE LAMAG PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the Lamag Planting Company, Limited, was held at Messrs. Gibb, Livingston and Company's offices at 110, on the 24th inst. There were present: Mr. C. S. Sharp (Chairman), B. Layton, H. L. Dalrymple, E. E. Abrahamson (Consulting Committee); G. S. Coxon and L. Hallward (Acting Secretaries). The Chairman in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said:—The report and accounts have now been in your hands for some days and with your permission we will take them as read. This being the first year of the Company's working the accounts are somewhat meagre and we have really very little to add to what is set down in the printed statements. According to latest advice from Sandakan everything was going on well on the estate and the only thing to be regretted is the smallness of the area brought under cultivation and the correspondingly small crop. The latter, however, is expected to turn out of good quality and we hope it won't be at any rate, less than P.O. 25. The present financial position of the Company, I am sorry to say, is not bright and unless some assistance is speedily forthcoming things will come to an absolute deadlock. At present we are without funds to go on with and these must be provided in sufficient quantity to enable us to bring the present season's crops to market. For this we estimate we shall require upwards of \$12,500 of ready money. Several attempts have been made to raise a loan, but we have not been able to do so. We have been in constant correspondence with London agents on this subject and the last telegram from them on 21st inst., I am glad to say, still holds out some hope of its being carried through. The want of success in this matter is a matter of great concern to the shareholders, and it is to be regretted that the financial crisis which has recently prevailed there. Should no assistance of this kind be forthcoming it must rest with the shareholders as to what course they will adopt for the future of the Company. It must be remembered that the indebtedness of the Company will have to be liquidated and further expenditure and funds made, for the purpose saving what should be an asset of some value in this season's crop. I beg to propose that the report and accounts as presented be accepted and passed, but before putting same to the meeting I will be happy to give any information, shareholders may wish for on any point connected with same. I should mention that the balance sheet at debit of working account it is estimated that an amount of \$16,800 can be carried forward to crop of 1891 should work be carried on.

Mr. S. Coxon seconded and the report and accounts were carried unanimously.

Mr. Coxon then proposed the re-election of the consulting Committee who retired in accordance with the Articles of Association. Mr. C. S. Sharp seconded. Carried *nem. con.*

Upon the motion of Mr. Dalrymple, seconded by Mr. Coxon, Mr. F. Henderson's appointment as Auditor was confirmed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

CRICKET.

CLUB CIVILIANS V. ROYAL NAVY.

The result of this match played on Saturday last must certainly bid the Club, at any rate the civilian members thereof, to bestir themselves. It is that the more active pastime of football has caused the healthy and active cricketing spirit which is always supposed to exist in this colony, to decline. We think not the reason is rather to be found in the difficulty which our indefatigable Hon. Secretary experiences in getting together, at this season of the year, an eleven worthy of the name that the Club has always borne. No one, excepting those intimately concerned, can form any idea of the numerous interests that have to be considered. Any one perusing the names of the Club eleven, as published on Friday evening, will have seen how few they were in a batting line. But to return to the match. Capt. Hough having won the toss sent to the wickets Lieut. Grafton and Mr. R. Herbert. E. W. Mailland and C. F. Lamont being the bowlers; only six members of the Club eleven had by this time turned up, the places of the remainder being taken by two substitutes and three "coolies." Herbert who has been batting very well this season was unfortunately bowled almost immediately by Lamont. James of the *Plover* was next in and he and Grafton caused the Club some trouble. The Club captain having arrived displaced E. W. Mailland, who had not been bowling so well as usual, and at length a satisfactory result was achieved. James had completed the vacant place and after making 12 he was caught by a substitute of Lamont. Lamont came next; Grafton who had been playing very good cricket was then bowled by Bass, after putting together 35 runs. Capt. Hough filled the vacancy, but running out about half-way up the pitch was promptly given out by Bass, after making one run. Of the remaining members of the Eleven, Baker was the only one to obtain double figures. 22 runs were carried off by the Club, and the innings closed for 12. Had it not been for the bad fielding, the total would have been much smaller for not less than five catches were missed. The less that is said of the Club's innings the better, Woodcock being the only one to make any stand, and although he was first with Mailland, and was not dismissed until the 9th wicket, he only made 10 runs. Plant and Hough bowled very well, although the latter has been doubted for the past week or two. The following were the batsmen who were out:—

In the second innings the Club did slightly better, four members of the team getting into double figures. Woodcock hitting out a little more freely than usual, made 22. The total was 87, the Club thus just saving themselves a single innings defeat.

There is no doubt that the pitch was very bumpy but this cannot be wondered at considering the dry state of the ground.

The enjoyment of the afternoon was considerably enhanced by the presence, with the kindly permission of Colonel Chater, of the A. & S. H. and

(The following are the scores:—

THE CLUB.

First Innings.	Second Innings.
E. W. Mailland, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10	E. W. Mailland, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10
C. F. Lamont, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10	C. F. Lamont, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10
C. S. Coxon, b. Plant, 10	C. S. Coxon, b. Plant, 10
S. W. Bass, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10	S. W. Bass, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10
L. D. Baker, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10	L. D. Baker, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10
J. J. Kewick, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10	J. J. Kewick, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10
G. S. Sharp, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10	G. S. Sharp, c. Graft, b. Herbert, 10
Extras, 10	Extras, 10
Total, 87	Total, 87

ROYAL NAVY.

Mr. H. H. Grafton, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10	Mr. H. H. Grafton, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10
Mr. J. J. Kewick, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10	Mr. J. J. Kewick, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10
Mr. S. W. Bass, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10	Mr. S. W. Bass, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10
Mr. L. D. Baker, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10	Mr. L. D. Baker, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10
Mr. E. W. Mailland, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10	Mr. E. W. Mailland, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10
Mr. C. S. Coxon, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10	Mr. C. S. Coxon, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10
Mr. G. S. Sharp, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10	Mr. G. S. Sharp, c. C. F. Lamont, b. Herbert, 10
Extras, 10	Extras, 10
Total, 87	Total, 87

FOOTBALL.

THE CLUB V. C. COMPANY OF THE 91ST REGIMENT.

This Association Match was played yesterday afternoon (24th inst.), at the Race-course, and resulted in the best exhibition of the game on the part of the Club, that we have yet witnessed. We were glad to see the Club Colours worn by nearly all the team and think that this in some degree assisted to render the game so close to follow. At 4.50 p.m. Vignoles kicked off for the Club, and the play at once became of a lively description, the ball travelling from one end of the ground to the other, without material advantage to either side; the back play of both teams being very strong. After some few minutes play a corner kick fell to the Club, but nothing resulted and the Company forwards getting possession of the ball ran it well up the ground. "Offside" being given against them, when on the point of scoring a goal. Several attempts were now made by the Club to score, and Blair, assisted by Atkinson, at length proved successful. Beyond corner kicks to either side, nothing further resulted till half time.

On resuming the game was of the same lively character—the defensive powers of the backs and goal-keepers on either side being severely taxed. After a series of attacks on the Club goal the Company were at length successful and though the Club forwards made several determined attacks on the Company's goal they were unable to score again, the match terminating in a draw.

We congratulate the Club on this best exhibition of the "dribbling game" they have yet given, and we hope to see them later on in the season making as good a show against their well-nigh invincible opponents, the 1st A. & S. Highlanders. The following represented the Club:—

Forwards.	F. C. Vignoles (Capt.)
E. M. Blair.	W. Newton.
J. M. Atkinson.	A. N. Other.
H. C. Marshall.	A. H. Ough.
E. C. Young.	G. Macdonogh.
W. V. Anderson.	

The next match (under Rugby rules) will be played on Monday, 1st prox.—the Club v. The United Services (return).

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. W. H. Wallace) asks us to mention that he will be glad to hear from any members who wish to play in matches and who have not as yet been asked to take part in a match.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The fourth competition for the Subscription Challenge Cups and Range Spoons took place on Saturday last, and resulted in some good shooting being shown at the shorter range. Messrs. F. W. Cross, E. L. Woodin, and Sergeant Butlin, H.K.P., tied for the 200 yards spoon with a score of 32 each. The score of Mr. F. W. Cross being the best, according to Bisley rules, he took the spoon and also came out winner of the cup. Mr. E. Robinson won the 300 yards spoon with a score of 28. There were 20 competitors, and the five best scores are appended:—

Name.	200 yds.	300 yds.	400 yds.	Total.
Mr. F. W. Cross	32	28	24	84
Mr. E. Robinson	30	26	22	78
Mr. J. M. Atkinson	28	24	20	72
Mr. S. W. Bass	26	22	18	66
Mr. L. D. Baker	24	20	16	60

CHANG CHIH-TUNG'S IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

HANYANG, November 14th.

Since the last notes that were published in your paper, there has not been very much of interest to report on the different undertakings of the progressive Viceroy of the Hanyang province. "Talks are going on," though of course very slowly.

First, in rank of importance, come the iron and steel works. It has not been an easy matter to find, in the environs of the provincial capital, a suitable place for erection. After much delay and talk, a site has been chosen on the northern slope of the Hanyang hills, between that ridge and the Han river, opposite the native city of Hankow, and thus close to the Yangtze with which afterwards the works will be connected. It appears at first sight to be an unfavourable place for building purposes, as it is merely ground and lies much lower than the summer levels of the Han and Yangtze. The natives laid out the place under cultivation and constructed an embankment to protect it against the yearly floods. This embankment has been immediately raised and strengthened, but will only serve for the present, as it is proposed, in order to avoid any danger of inundation, to have the working level of the factories sufficiently high above the ordinary and even extraordinary rises of the Yangtze, corresponding to about 10 ft. Hankow water-mark (Shanghai), etc. are now busy building the large quantities of materials for the works, and the natives are now busy with the ground has been sufficiently drained.

As far as I have been able to ascertain the factories will be very important indeed, and will comprise for the present two large blast furnaces of the Cleveland type with all their apparatus, apparatus and machinery capable of producing about a hundred tons of pig-iron daily. There will be also a complete Bessemer plant including two five-ton converters with their cupolas, casting cranes, large blowing engines, etc. The ingot steel made here will be rolled into flange rails, so that the specifications include necessarily a large rail mill and all machinery and apparatus for the same. It is known, apart from this, that the fabrication of rails for their future railways has been the chief object of the Chinese in designing these iron and steel works.

A small Siemens-Martin plant will complete the steel works; the object is the casting of soft steel for ship plates and a special metal for Viceroy's small-arm and gun barrels. It would appear from the foregoing statement that a shipyard will be annexed to the general works, but this is a real "by and by."

As for the iron department, it will also be a very complete one, including some twenty puddling furnaces and a plate and bar mill with all indispensable machinery.

It is roughly estimated that the works will cover about 20 acres. They will be intersected by numerous railways, on which the astonished Chinese will perhaps see half-a-dozen locomotives, small and large, travelling in different directions.

The whole plant has been ordered from a well-known firm on the Rhine, and must be entirely delivered in the early months of the next year. However, an important part of the machinery has already been brought up and landed here direct on a steamer-going steamer. It includes, of course, all the blast furnace materials with which the start will be made.

The foreign technical staff has now been completed by the arrival, some time ago, of Messrs. Hobson and White, who came out here respectively as manager and engineer of the works. These gentlemen are living for the present in the well-known Hankow Runnelow, close to the site of the works. —Daily News.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

It is rumoured in Bangkok that the Scottish Oriental Steamship Company will have another new steamer out here in June next.

Mr. J. H. Longford, late British Consul at Kobe, has been transferred to Yokohama. Mr. J. I. Kinsale of Yokohama, becoming British Consul at Kobe in his stead.

Mr. H. BUDLER, the Danish German Consul at Canton, has been transferred to Tientsin. His post at Canton will be filled by Baron von Seckendorff. —Der Ostasiatische Lloyd.

OUR northern contemporaries announce the provisional appointment of Shen Pao-ching, Governor of Anhwei, as Viceroy of the Liang Kiang, *vice* Tang Kuo-chuan deceased.

THE *Strait Times* learns that the firm of Heineken & Co. have been appointed agents of the Ocean Steamship Company at Batavia. Holl's (Blue Funnel) vessels intend to call there every fourteen days, next year.

A KOBE exchange says M. Tateno has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Rome, *vice* His Excellency K. Tokugawa recalled. Also that the Diet will be opened at Tokyo on Saturday, the 29th inst.

COUNTERFEIT dollars and subsidiary coins on the model of those now being issued by the new mint are, says the *Kuung-Pao*, coming into circulation, being made in quantities in Shanghai, and people are cautioned to be careful as they are very difficult of detection.

THE Imperial Commissioners who carried the message of condolence from the Emperor to the King of Korea have, says the *Chinese Times*, been received at Seoul with the full traditional ceremonies, the King making his obeisance to the Imperial Edict according to the rules in that case made and provided.

NATIVE papers state a slight shock of earthquake, lasting from four to five minutes, was felt in Taiwan on the 17th of the 9th moon, at about 9 o'clock in the morning, and that an Imperial Decree, dated the 28th day of the 9th moon, a reply is given to a memorial sent in to the Throne by Liu Ming-chuan, in which the Governor of Formosa craved permission to retire from his appointment, and go to Fuhkien or Chekiang for the benefit of his health, he having been stricken with a severe disease that renders him for the present utterly unable to discharge the onerous duties of his office. The Decree in question says that the Emperor is well aware of the unwelcome illness which pressed upon the Governor, and such a request and emphatically forbids him to quit the island on any pretence, saying that if his health is really so bad as he represents it, he may refrain from the duties of his office for three months, and nurse himself in his Yamen.

A CORRESPONDENT has furnished our Shanghai morning contemporary with some very interesting statistics of the *Hermandad* of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service, which we learn, that according to a recently issued Service List the Staff consists of one hundred and eighty-eight commissioners and assistants. Of these, one hundred and seventeen are British, sixteen French, sixteen German, fourteen Americans, and twenty-five of other nationalities. Of the Americans, fourteen per cent. have risen from the lower ranks of the service; of the Germans, eighteen per cent.; of the French, six per cent.; and of other nationalities, exclusive of British, eight per cent. Of the British, who form about three-fifths of the staff, not one, except in the class of clerks, has been promoted from the out-door department. This appears a very strange thing, we consider, that the out-door staff contains more British subjects than men of all other nationalities combined.

APPROXIMATELY the Canton Waterworks scheme the *Kuung-Pao* says, a petition to be allowed to establish waterworks at Canton, is referred by the Viceroy to the Shanhow-chu (the Reorganizing Board) for further particulars. H.E. approves the establishment of waterworks, but the petition only states that the applicant's purpose is to establish his headquarters at Li-ming-kan, near the Viceroy's new College, and the price for the proposed charge, and does not specify whether the capital is to be raised on shares, whether the plant has been purchased, whether the project is to be carried out, whether the Government ground, whether they propose to use earthenware mains and branch pipes, whether carrying them above ground will be objectionable in any way, or whether they can guarantee their ability to carry out the scheme proposed, and he cannot consider the application for the establishment until these particulars are supplied.

and corruptly conspiring on the 10th August 1947 for the purpose of bringing a false and malicious charge of rape against John Minkinnett; of the libel/ You have had the advantage of

reporter who claimed to be in a position to verify the same. There is still, up to this stage, not even an inference of a possible conspiracy on the part of Mr. Frost-Smith and his

Can anyone conceive the possibility of a
two men, far less two men in the positions

to Hospital. On the 2nd of October he complained of dizziness and he was admitted. On the 4th of October he said he was

The *Wenchow* arrived here (Shanghai) yesterday from Newchwang, and anchored below the wharves.

China of superior rights over a country where Western Powers keep accredited representatives in a country which cannot adequately defend

do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed

THE LATE CONSPIRACY TRIAL.

A LEGAL VIEW OF THE CASE.

SIR,—The popular excitement in connection with the recent trial and conviction of the Ed

Sub-Editor of the *Hongkong Telegraph* has by no means subsided, a

verdict of the jury was totally unsupported by the evidence and that two men of highly re-

verify the same. There is still up to this
not even an instance of criminal conduct
on the part of Mr. Frost-Smith and

Ward at the Central Station and there and then induced him to go into the clerk's office and

Police were the actual prosecutors. Mr. Fraser-
Smith was not present in the Police Court.

compound and walked him direct into the Magistracy?

Gudge Greason,
Three-quarter backs.

Despite the warmth of the weather the game was fast and well-contested throughout the

laborer and remained so until he was sent to Hospital. On the 2nd of October he was placed on crutches and he was discharged on the 4th of October. He was well.

was of opinion that the treatment did not occasion the dysentery, it only rendered the disease the

quantities it may be given.

The same contemporary on the 18th states that the *Wenchow* arrived here (Shanghai) yesterday from Newchwang, and anchored below *Wuying*.

A few days ago, writes the *Journal*, some person calling on Viscount Kabayama, Minister of Marine, asked him whether the Bill for in-

add to the burdens of the people, and whether it might not be injudicious to bring forward such

scarcely less so—the Orientations exercise China's unilateral rights over a country where Western Powers keep meddling representatives in a country which cannot adequately contain

Western Power's respected representative

in a society which cannot indefinitely contain

SUPREME COURT
IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION

(Before the Full Court.)
November 25th, 1890.

THE MARINE LOT QUESTION SETTLED.

Judgment was delivered by their lordships yesterday in the suit which the Hon. P. Ryrie, as a trustee for the City Hall, brought against the Acting Attorney General with a view to restraining the Government from filling in the Harbour in front of the said Trustees' property. Mr. Robinson, instructed by Messrs. Denny and Messop, was for the plaintiff; the Acting Attorney-General appeared in person.

Sir James Russell, the Chief Justice said—
The plaintiff is a merchant and member
of the Legislative Council of the colony,
and the defendant is sued under section
183 of Ordinance 13 of 1873, which pro-
vides the means of bringing actions against
the Crown In the nature of petitions of
right. The Government of Hongkong, under
the authority of a local Ordinance, are engaged
in large reclamations of the Harbour of Vic-
toria, and along its southern boundary; and the
plaintiff claims that as the Crown lessee of
marine lot 83 his property has been injuri-
ously affected, and has filed a petition praying
that the Government agents, workmen
and contractors may be restrained from proceed-
ing with the works in front of this lot, as the
effect of such reclamation will be to interfere
with his right of access and proximity to the
sea, convert his holding into an inland lot and
thus diminish the value of his property. The
matter comes at present before the Court in the
return to a rule calling upon the defendant to
show cause why an interim injunction should
not issue restraining the Government, its
agents, &c., from filling up the harbour in front
of marine lot 83. Ordinance No. 13 of 1873—
the Praya Reclamation Ordinance—was passed
to carry out a scheme for the reclamation
of the northern portion of the City of Victoria,
and the preamble states that "Whereas the fast-
ness of the Harbour of Victoria is in process of
silting up to the detriment of the health and com-
merce of the colony, and it is expedient to put
a stop to such process and to provide a deep fran-
tise; and whereas the area of level land for
building and for roads and quays and open
spaces along the sea front of the City of Victoria
is insufficient to meet the growing wants of the
colony; and it is expedient to enlarge the same
&c." The second section declares that the works
referred to in the Ordinance are for the improve-
ment of the colony and for a "public purpose,"
within the meaning of that term in Crown leases.
Section 3 enacts that it shall be lawful for the
Governor to carry out the works according to
certain plans which have been in inspection. The
4th section empowers the works authorized by
the Ordinance. The 5th enables the Governor
to remove all obstructions to the work, as piers,
wharves, &c. The 6th section is of rather a
swEEPING nature, and is as follows:—"All the land
and wharfage and bed of the sea to be reclaimed
under this Ordinance and all the land occupied
by the present Praya roadway and wall along
the line of the intended reclamation is hereby
declared to be absolutely the property of the
Crown free from any restrictions whatever, and
the Governor shall have power, subject to the
provisions of this Ordinance, to deal with the
same and to dispose of the same for building or
any other purpose in the same way as to full
an extent as in the case of the Crown lands;
and all property, estate, rights or supposed rights
and easements in or upon the premises whether
persons or classes of persons, easement Crown lease-
holders or licensees or otherwise to the uses or
possession or occupation of, in, over, or in any
way in relation to such land foreshore, bed of
the sea, embankment, reclamation or Praya
roadway and wall, or in relation to any
wharf, landing place, pier or other place
situated thereupon, are hereby declared to be
absolutely extinguished and determined." The
7th section states that a large majority of the
Crown lessees have declared their readiness to
pay a share of the expense of the reclamation if
the Governor will agree to grant them an
equitable proportion of the land reclaimed in
the front of their lots, and a form of agreement
is appended to the Ordinance which gives effect
to the equitable principle of the Crown lessees
which the Secretary of State pointed out as far
back as the year 1879, as appears by Govern-
ment Notification No. in which also the claims
of the Crown to reclaimed land are asserted and
notified. (See *Government Gazette* of July March
1879). It is also enacted that a plan showing
how much land allotted to each leaseholder
shall be exhibited at the land office with the
amount to be contributed by him, and within
two months from the publication of the schedule
of allotments lessees are required to state whe-
ther they are prepared to enter into the pro-
posed agreement, and within another month the
Governor may enter into the agreement with
those who desire to come into the agreement.
Sub-section 6 of sec. 7 contains the following:—"In
case any lessee shall decline to signify this acceptance
in accordance with and within the time provided in
sub-sections 2 and 4 of this section, he shall have
no claim to any compensation in respect of any
depreciation of his lot by reason of the said
works, but the Governor may if he thinks fit
award to him such a sum of money or such a
Crown lease of new land as he, in his absolute
discretion, may think sufficient as and by way of
compensation for any injury that such lessee
may have sustained by the said works." Section
8 is: "Except as in this Ordinance provided
no marine lot-holder or other person shall be
entitled, as against the Crown, to any damages
or compensation for loss of his property or busi-
ness caused by or resulting either directly or remotely
from any of the said works." From an
examination of the affidavits read in this
matter and the counterpart of the Crown
lease of M. lot 83, which was put in by the
Acting Attorney-General, it appears that in
1866 the Governor for and in behalf of Her
Majesty devised to Mr. Ryrie, Mr. Alexander
Tuning, and Mr. J. McDonald a piece of ground
abutting on the Praya and containing 28,800
square feet. Its northern boundary was on the
Government ground, and about 100 feet from
the Praya wall. The south and east boundaries
are along the Government ground, and the western
boundary is on a public street. The amount
paid was a nominal sum of \$5, and the rental
reserved was \$1 per annum, and it was granted
to these three gentlemen, as trustees, as a site for
a City Hall. The lessees have attached their
names to a declaration that although the value
of the site is considerable the demise has been
made of Her Majesty's favour without pecuniary
consideration, but upon the condition these three
promises shall not be used nor any part thereof
for any other purpose than a City Hall in pain
of forfeiture, and they have covenanted not to
submit, mortgage, sell or make any other use of
the site than that for which it was granted. What-
ever the value of the site as to the characteristics
of marine lots—as to the high price paid
to the Government for them, because of right
of access and proximity to the sea, the higher
rents reserved and their greater value in the
market when they came to be sold—little can
be said in these respects about this so-called
marine lot 83, which cost practically nothing,
and cannot be let, sold or mortgaged. It has not
been shown that any right of access to the sea
has been enjoyed by the plaintiffs from the date

one of the public, and from the nature of the institution and the limitation to the uses, it cannot make the least difference whether it is 50 feet or 5,000 from the sea, provided the present road is not narrowed, and it is admitted that it is to be widened to 75 feet. If however, any actionable wrong has been done, or is about to be done, damages would meet the case. An injunction would be out of the question in this opinion, although it is a remedy which a perpetual injunction is the only remedy. If such were the case, public works of any kind, however desirable, could be undertaken, for any person by his own motion might stop their prosecution, even when commenced for months as the Praya works have been, after much expense had been incurred and contracts entered into. But apart from the merits of this particular case, whatever may be the rights of his or any other claimant, as a land-holder, the jurisdiction of the Court is ousted by the Praya Reclamation Ordinance. The Legislature has, in sec. 7, sub-sect. 6, enacted that "any person who has not come in under sub-sect. 2 and 3 shall have no claim to compensation in respect of any deprivation of his lot by reason of the said works, and the Governor is vested with absolute discretion as to awarding compensation to those who have not come into the agreement. If the plaintiff did attempt to come in under the agreement and was not permitted, or if he was refused any compensation by the Governor, the plaintiff might have a remedy, but the Court cannot help him, for sections 7 and 8 extinguish all rights and remedies, except those provided by the Ordinance, namely, to have an equitable award of compensation for injury as the Governor may decide. It is urged that section 5 amounts to confiscation of private rights, and that the Ordinance is *ultra vires*,—that the Queen cannot derogate from her own grant, and cannot, by a legislative act, take away what has been granted in her executive capacity. I confess I should have liked to have seen a tribunal constituted to inquire whether there were any rights and to declare them. It is somewhat absurd, however, to suppose that the public improvements in a colony are needed that one or more less persons are entitled to block them. But of course their rights ought to be ascertained and compensated. To say, however, that because a man has had certain access to the beach he is always to have it whatever public requirements may dictate, is not reasonable; but any injury of a legal nature giving him a right of action should be remedied by adequate damages. The Thames embankment cases illustrate how owners may be injured by public works, and how they are compensated. But the Act of the Legislature is supreme and binding on this Court, and although its action may not take away certain rights tyrannously it cannot interfere. The remarks of Chief Justice Cockburn in *Philips v. Eyre* 4 L. R., 2 B., are in point. The Ordinance is made by the Governor with the consent of the Legislative Council and duly asserted to. It is made in virtue of the powers conferred by the charter of the colony (see letters patent 20th January, 1888, revoking the charter of 5th April, 1843, and granting a new charter). The charter, whilst conferring legislative power on the colony, reserves to Her Majesty a concurrent, not paramount power of legislating by order in Council, and reserves the power of disallowing any Ordinance. The Praya Reclamation Ordinance has not only been disallowed but confirmed, as was the Ordinance in *Phillips v. Eyre* by *Gassell* notification (see judgment of Chief Justice Cockburn, C.J.), on the effect of the confirmation of a colonial law by the Governor on the advice of her responsible Ministers answerable to Parliament). The Colonial Laws Validity Act, 28 and 29 Vic., c. 63, shows in what respects only colonial legislation may be void for repugnancy, whilst a late case (Powell v. The Appollo Canale Co., N.S. Appeal cases) and the cases therein cited and referred to affirm previous decisions that Colonial Legislatures within their own jurisdiction have plenary powers of legislation, and are supreme within their own limits. To put the matter shortly, I am of opinion that the plaintiff has a case of action at all, and is not entitled to an injunction, and that the damages. Second, that any case of action which he might have is taken away by the Ordinance which rests in the Governor the power of saying what, if any, compensation should be allowed. (See judgment of Lord Macnaghten in the Mayor and Councilors of Pictmarlitzburg v. Natal Land Colonization Co., 13 Appeal Cases, 478; and *Lyons v. Fishmongers Co.*, Eng. and L. Appeals.) Lord discharged, with costs.

[illegible]

disallowance of laws so made and a power of independent legislation will be the necessary consent of the Privy Council. Besides the two restrictions already reserved in the charter there is, in the Imperial Parliament, the power of the Imperial Parliament, the statutes of which may extend to all or any parts of Her Majesty's dominions. It is clear that if no other restrictions are to be imposed into the powers of the Hong Kong Legislature it would be for that body, and not for the Court, to decide whether a particular Ordinance advances the objects of the "peace, order, and good government" of the colony (see *Riel v. the Queen*, L.R., 10 App., 675), when it was said, "It is not the least consideration for the Court. With the power of the Ordinance or the adequacy of the compensation clause in it the Court can have no concern—the competency of the Legislature to pass it is the only question, and it is on this question of competency that the plaintiff's counsel has sought to distinguish between legislative bodies which are representative and those which are unrepresentative, and between Legislatures established by Act of Parliament and those founded on Royal Charter. It seems to me that the highest authorities must ignore and preclude any such distinction." Phillips, Eyre, L.R. 63, B. 1, remarks upon the power of the Legislature of Jamaica based on charter. There the Governor of Jamaica had consented to an Act by the local Legislature indemnifying him by against all persons for any act done in good faith in the suppression of a rebellion which had broken out in the island. It was held that this Act was a bar to an action brought in England for false imprisonment and assault committed in the suppression of the rebellion, notwithstanding that it was urged that the Crown by its charter could not confer on the Colonial Legislature a power to deprive a subject of his previously existing rights. In giving the judgment of the Court of Exchequer, Lord Cairns, Wille J., says (p. 20): "We are satisfied that confirmed Act of this local Legislature, lawfully constituted, whether in a settled or conquered colony, has, as to matters within its competence and the limits of its jurisdiction, the operation and force of sovereign legislation, though subject to be controlled by the Imperial Parliament." *Reg. v. Burah*, L.R., 3 App., Ca. 88, dealt with the competence of the Indian Legislature, an unrepresentative body established by Act of Parliament. Lord Selbourne, in giving the judgment of the Privy Council, draws no distinction between the different ways of conferring legislative power. At p. 904 he says: "The established Courts of justice, when questions arise whether the prescriptions of (legislation) have been exceeded, must of necessity determine that question in so far as by looking to the terms of the instrument by which, affirmatively, the legislative powers were created, and by which, negatively, they are restricted. If what has been done is legislation, within the general scope of the affirmative words which give the power, and if it violates no express condition or restriction by which that power is limited (in which category would, of course, be included any Act of the Imperial Parliament at variance with it), is not for any Court of justice to enquire farther, or to enlarge constructively those conditions or restrictions." Lastly in *Powell v. the Apollo Canal Co.*, L.R., 10 App. Ca. 283, the case of the *Apollonia* was cited and acted upon. The authority for the extent of the powers of the New South Wales Legislature, a representative body established by Act of the Imperial Parliament. Without referring to other cases, the three last mentioned—all of the highest authority—convince me that the same principles prevail, whether the Legislature be representative or not, and whatever may be the manner of its creation. If an Ordinance of the Legislature of Hong Kong were to be deemed purely an Act of the Crown, and valid only so far as it did not derogate from other Acts of the Crown, it seems to me that there would be as much reason to say that it could not be afterwards repealed or altered by the Ordinance as to say that the Crown could not interfere with a right which the Legislature had otherwise conferred. The result, in fact, if carried to its full length, would be inconsistent with a power of legislation properly so called. Such a power must of necessity include the power to modify, alter, and even destroy existing rights, though, of course, the greatest care should be exercised that no injury be inflicted without adequate compensation. I therefore think that "The Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889" was within the competency of the Legislature.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column].

THE CONSPIRACY CASE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."
SIR—It afforded me, and I am sure m

Sir,—It afforded me, and I am sure many others of your readers, great satisfaction to read the interesting and interesting account of the correspondent who signed himself "Legal," published in Saturday's *Telegraph*. Your correspondent has a concise, clear, and impartial *resumé* of the entire case, and on comparing it with what I myself heard in court and the published reports of the trial, I find nothing stated that is not absolutely warranted by facts. The conclusions arrived at—that the verdict of the four jurors which in Hongkong unfortunately stands, even in important criminal cases, as the verdict of the whole, was unjustified by direct evidence of any kind whatsoever; that the evidence favoring the defendants was overweighing in the balance; and that the statements on oath made by the defendants to the Police, which completely exonerated Mr. Fraser-Smith from all participation in, or knowledge of, the information sworn against Minihinet (and it must not be forgotten that this information was the actual conspiracy), and the Major-General's frank avowal that the entire responsibility for the prosecution lay with him alone, were totally ignored;—that the summing up of the learned Chief Justice, which almost up to the acquittal, was overruled; and that the defendants were in consequence wrongfully found guilty—are quite unassailable and will be endorsed by every impartial lawyer in the colony. A great injustice has undoubtedly been done. A not unknown thing in local trials, and it is beyond any manner of doubt, the duty of the Executive and of the Hongkong community to see that respectable citizens who have committed no crime are not made to suffer a degrading punishment, through the blundering or unreasoning of the judges of even such a tribunal as the Court of Criminal Justice, and the trial of the four persons who formed the majority of one last Wednesday afternoon.

My lawyer who watched the trial closely and has since made a careful scrutiny of the entire proceedings, I venture to offer a few comments on two of the witnesses for the prosecution, Minihinet and Mrs. Goulbourn. The former's depositions in the box was somewhat singular and anything but prepossessing. His answers under cross-examination were, not to say too much, grossly insulting and in some instances decidedly evasive and equivocal. His evidence in relation to the "suspicious" note, was more than anything else, a direct assertion of the fact that Mr. Fraser-Smith had conducted the disgusting story away by the woman Ah Ngin at the Police Court, and bribed her to commit perjury of such an extraordinary character, was quiet enough by itself to place his credibility under the gravest suspicion, while his

travoluntarily insolent reply to Mr. Ward to the effect that when he shot anybody it would be a *wam*, was a deliberate outrage on the Court, which, to my intense surprise, the Chief Justice permitted to pass without severe censure. The man too evidently played a part, and did his utmost to be offensively spiteful and objectionable. His denial of the outrage alleged against him was, of course, only what was to be expected and is to be excused, but his treading on dangerous and delicate ground when he vainly attempted to justify the disgraceful act, after living with Ah Ngan for six or seven years, was hardly to be wondered at. He was a daughter, the half-caste Emily. But the most important and most suspicious matter in Minihinnett's evidence which struck me, was with reference to the alleged going away to Amoy on the previous Sunday morning of Ah Ngan. The evidence of Inspector Quincey showed that Ah Ngan and her adopted daughter, the girl known as "Chop Dollar," were on board the Douglas Co.'s steamer *Namoa* as passengers for Amoy late on Saturday night. This fact in itself was very suspicious; Ah Ngan's visit to the important witnesses against Minihinnett, her absence from the trial was more than desirable, and that her secret departure from Hongkong should be timed at the eleventh hour as it were, can only be regarded, giving all respectful deference to the contrary opinion of Sir James Russell, with grave suspicion. Had it not been for M^rs. Goulbourn calling at the *Hongkong Telegraph* office on the Saturday afternoon, Ah Ngan's flight to Amoy would evidently not have been known to the defendants. But that is not all. Inspector Quincey's visit to the *Namoa* would seem to have alarmed the two women, or why did "Chop Dollar" stand in the leeward from the Chief Engineer of the vessel which she had read in Court, leave the steamer early on Sunday morning? Is it not a fair inference that she went to inform Minihinnett of the Inspector's visit and inquiries? And is it not quite probable that as a result, Ah Ngan may also, have come ashore or to the steamer's departure? It must be remembered that at the Police Court Ah Ngan swore she was on friendly terms with Minihinnett, and was in receipt of \$10 a month from him, and she gave her evidence against him with much reluctance. Minihinnett, in cross-examination by Mr. Fraser-Smith, said he had not seen "Chop Dollar" for about two years. It is true that he met Ah Ngan in the street last Sunday morning and was shocked at the *Namoa* left for the Coast Ports about 8 a.m. Ah Ngan either did not go by that vessel, or Minihinnett was guilty of deliberate perjury. Mr. Fraser-Smith's friends should leave no stone unturned to satisfy themselves on that point. The *Namoa* will be here in a day or two, when it can easily be learned whether or not Ah Ngan went to Amoy; if she went, there should be no difficulty in tracing her with the aid of the authorities there, if she came ashore here prior to the steamer leaving, she ought to be found and asked to explain under what circumstances and at whose instance she took passage to Amoy, and for what reason she disembarked on the Sunday morning. Mr. Goulbourn should again, could render valuable assistance in these researches. Minihinnett here had not seen "Chop Dollar" for about two years, although it was stated in Court that this girl had been living with Ah Ngan at Queen's Road East for some time past. There is also room for some inquiries in this direction

I must confess, Sir, that the evidence of Mrs. Goulbourn puzzled me greatly; it struck me that she could have told a great deal more than was got out of her if she had felt so inclined. At the Police Court she denied ever having spoken to Mr. Ward about Minbinnett's alleged outrage of the little girl; in the Supreme Court, after some feigning and rather ridiculous "refreshing of memory," which were not altogether beyond suspicion, she admitted she had spoken to Ward on the subject. My firm impression was, and is now, that Mrs. Goulbourn could have thrown a great deal of interesting light on the matter, and that Mr. Ward was well aware of it, but for some reason or other withheld his best, and he suffered from the consequences of her false evidence at the Police Court by pressing her just as little as possible, and being satisfied with answers which, so far as he was personally concerned, were far from satisfactory. That some understanding existed between Ward and the witness was perfectly plain, and that this understanding, whatever it may have been, was unknown to Mr. Fraser-Smith, was shown by the evidently unexpected question that gentleman asked Mrs. Goulbourn relating to her visit at his office, a visit which appeared to puzzle the Chief Justice greatly, and which the lady tried to explain in a most helpless and incomprehensible fashion. If the whole truth were known, it would, in my opinion, be found that Mrs. Goulbourn originally gave Mr. Fraser-Smith information embodied in the statement handed by the Editor of the *"Telegraph"* to the Registrar General, and afterwards to the Magistracy who was either influenced or coerced into denying all knowledge of the transaction, a denial that was strangely qualified by various suspicious admissions at the Supreme Court. Assuming my surmises to be well founded, this woman must be held to a very great extent responsible, and it would be a grave responsibility to anyone with a conscience, for the unjust conviction and imprisonment of Messrs. Fraser-Smith and Ward.

The extraordinary blunder on the part of Mr. Roddy in not going into the witness box has naturally caused a deal of discussion amongst his brother solicitors in the law, and I think cannot be any uncertain cause to him that but for his mistaken confidence in the intelligence and impartiality of the trial jury, an unanimous verdict of "not guilty" must inevitably have been returned. Mr. Roddy frankly admits his error and responsibility, and will no doubt do all in his power to make amends for the painful results caused by his unfortunate error of judgment, by making proper representations on the subject to the Governor in Council, etc. But there is one thing more in this connection, which has elicited considerable comment in legal circles, and that is: the action of the Chief Justice. His lordship, in passing sentences close to the very verge of severity and propriety so much on Mr. Roddy's regrettable and fatal misdeeds, and that he did not appreciate and take full advantage of what was set against him to him that he himself was not altogether beyond the reach of meritous consideration.

It is well known in all criminal trials where the accused are not defended by counsel, that it is the duty of the presiding Judge to assist and guide them as far as possible in the interests of justice. Why did not Sir James Russell remind Mr. Fraser-Smith when the latter had closed his case, that he had not called the promised evidence as to having taken legal advice? Legal opinion in the colony asserts that it was his duty to do so, and his Lordship cannot possibly say the matter forms no necessary part of the evidence, and that he actually had a law book open before him, from which it was made up, in a malicious prosecution, that the defendant in a quoted case showing, who based acted on legal advice, was practically exonerated.

A suggestion, to Mr. Fraser-Smith at the proper time would I presume have at once played Mr. Roddy into the witness-box with the testimony which was afterwards, but too late, presented in the form of an affidavit; that suggestion, however, was not given, for reasons I cannot pretend to fathom or explain, but that it ought to have been given, is only as a matter of justice, it beyond all question, and I am glad to hear, that an industrially supported petition to his Excellency, the Governor-Administrator, the Government, a well defined way, as public opinion, so far as a sane official

would seem to be unanimous that justice has miscarried in this case, and it cannot be denied that the certain knowledge that two men, are suffering what must be extreme hardships for an offence they never committed, is far from pleasant to those who are interested in the good name of the colony, and especially to those who are in any way specially concerned in the administration of justice. That His Excellency will give the petition his most careful consideration goes for the saying, and Mr. Fleming's experience and legal acumen may be accepted as an assurance that justice will be done.

I am, Sir,
Your's truly,
ANOTHER LAWYER.
Hongkong, 25th November, 1890.

[We may explain to our correspondent and to all others whom it may concern that Mrs. Goulbourn's visit to this office on the afternoon of the 13th last, was intended for Mr. Ward, and it was only on being informed that that gentleman had gone up the Canton river on a shooting trip that she requested to see Mr. Fraser-Smith, to whom we know for a positive fact she imparted the information about Ah Nyan and Choo Ah Nee's being on board the steamer bound for Amoy. It may also be added that this lady was believed to be a witness for the defence, and not for the prosecution as turned out to be the case.—*Ed., H.K. Telegraph*]

TALENT FOR INDIA AND THE FAR EAST

(BY AN OLD SHOWMAN.)

"Talent" wanted for a tour through India and the Colonies!—such was the heading of my advertisement in "The Leader." I had written it last week while I was combining business with pleasure on a trip to the old country. "Talent" wanted? It's simple words indeed, and apparently easily understood; but it is only the experienced showman who knows how easily and widely they are misunderstood. It would scarcely be credited by the uninitiated what an amount of trouble and anxiety that short announcement drew upon my devoted shoulders. Within twenty-four hours of its appearance, our local postman had arrived at the conclusion that "I was an advertising 'tipster,' or a member of the firm of 'Spring congratulatory cards and admiring constitutions' [these letters!] . . . When I contemplate the enormous mass of correspondence now placed in one corner of my sanctum, I am compelled to consider from the quantity whether there is not an overplus of "talent" in the country, and cannot but regret that the supply is evidently far in excess of the demand; or—stay, perhaps there is a depression in the market! I will select casually from the chaos of calligraphy received from members of the fair sex. "Young lady, aged 31, good looking, pure contralto voice, perfect musician. R. A. M., L. A. M. B., N. G. W., &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. Lowest terms, £12 per week and all expenses. Address—" This reads well; an appointment is arranged, and the showman is ready to receive his talented visitor. Twenty minutes after the hour—time is nothing to a busy man: What! this coming through my garden gate? Surely I have made an error and written to the wrong party. I must refer. Not quite, correct—"young lady, 21, good looking!" Come in, Madam, pray be seated. Heavens! The brazen impudence of some people is unfathomable. What do I see? A tall, angular female who has at least been a witness of four or five theatrical performances. Her countenance slightly rubicund at the extremity, mien—no! must be diplomatic. If I am any judge of physiognomy, there is trouble ahead. "I answer to my advertisement, madam?" "Miss

answered to my advertisement," madam . . .
 "If you please (oh, dear I) : Are you the gentleman
 requiring musical talent for abroad ?" "I have
 that honor, Madam—*Miss*, I beg yow pardon."
 "Oh, then, I have no doubt that I shall suit you
 exactly. Would you like to hear me sing and
 play ?" "Certainly madam—*miss* : you will
 find this an excellent instrument."

With a diabolical attempt at a mile the "talent" reaches the piano, and after an enormous amount of stool-twisting, fidgeting, and dress-arranging, down come the bonny digits with such a bang on our favorite "grand" that a bachelor friend of mine, whose nervousness at the presence of ladies has caused him behind a screen, all but betrays his presence by one of the most exalted pines he ever attempted. The automatic symphony ended, the "talent" asks me what she shall sing. "Your own choice," Madam—Miss? Now for the pure contralto! "Valse de nuit, of course; it will not offend your modesty," declares the lady, who has suffered "Valse de nuit, indeed." Miss—Madam? Will you oblige me by leaving your permanent address, as perhaps it will be necessary for me to telegraph to you. Thank you, good-morning. Phew! [And I am safe once more. Let me say it is nearly time for my next interview—and here is the letter:—"I to reply to, &c., &c. I should be very much like to travel. I am very young, but have had great experience on the stage as vocalist and pianist. An interview would oblige you. Here she comes, and a pretty girl, too." "What looks better. How do you do, dear Madam?" "I am very well, thank you. I have had a very strange"—"Is, has he? (a very little laugh). Do you know mamma told me that you were certainly an old gentleman with a bald head. Do you think I shall suit you?" "Well, Miss, at present I really cannot give you a definite reply. You state that you have had great experience." "Oh, yes, for the past two winters I have sung at our Saturday Night School concerts, and played nearly all the accompaniments." "Oh, indeed! Will you give me an illustration of your abilities?" "Well, I'm scared, proper for 'Will you give me an illustration of your abilities?' You know, I don't know, but I will try to bring my music book, and mamma said she was sure it would be quite unnecessary." "So it is, quite unnecessary. I have plenty of selections here. Yes, I see, you have a lot of music (looking at her). You can't just see anything that I know." "Oh, indeed. Well, if you will kindly leave your permanent address," &c., &c.

The love of travel is undoubtedly a characteristic trait of the English man, or woman, and should, an opportunity of "going abroad" be missed, the fact will be remembered for many years—by men with regret, and by women with a sigh. They never think of the home sickening which is inevitable sooner or later, of the discomforts which are more or less unavoidable, of the travelling round the world on business, or of the man going for a trip abroad, and then, after those few words are uttered, all the disagreeable ideas attached to the undertaking. Another applicant: "Must describe? A delicate well educated young lady, whose late husband was acrimoniously rich and uneducated, the daughter of a deceased clergyman, late rector of an influential parish; the sole support of her mother and an invalid mother—a mistress of a certain precarious opulence for the family, but inflicting the young lady into the mysterious of music at the enormous remuneration of £2500 a challenge per week per quarter. This lady, my creature was willing to go anywhere and do anything—under her mother's guidance and supervision, and was quite sure that I should be of great use to her, although I was not a musician, but a very good hand of cards and it would do him much. A very capable and human nature, as well as the aristocratic and of human nature, as well as the aristocratic sometimes.

Room for a musician to play? A gentleman, who had been a perfect idiot, but who had been

upon me, and, in a quiet, unobtrusive, manner informed me that he was in possession of a sister-in-law who was a brilliant pianist and endowed with a charming voice—"though I may inform you," he said, "that she is not in the first rank of the world's great vocalists." I enquired, "She is 37 1/2!" I could scarcely contain myself when I pictured this lady in the act of spreading her *ravine* on the bath-room floor of a dink bungalow up-country, or racing to the railway station at midnight after a performance, encumbered with the usual amount of luggage which ladies call "necessaries." His sister-in-law! It may seem unkind, but his daring proposal to me suggests that there was one too many in his family, and now we will let the dead drop, gently, gently, as usual. I fear it would do the Theatre Royal, Hongkong, after her voice had echoed forth—"Good-bye, my love, good-bye!" A very charming young lady was exceedingly anxious to join the ranks of the "profession," by becoming a member of my company; but when she discovered that we extended the tour beyond Bombay and Calcutta, she astounded me by enquiring whether I was not afraid of my people being "killed by Indians?"

What more do my letters tell me!—it would be very difficult task to occupy the usual space of a three-volume novel in recounting the plain home-titles, which, are perfectly visible between the lines of my correspondents' letters—the wife separated from husband, asking her own little blood-son, and giving him names; the poor Miss Wanda, who quarrelled with her parents, and will go anywhere rather than remain another week under the family roof; the fair creature whose heart is broken through the abominably cruel behaviour of the gentleman to whom she was to be married next month; but upon whose face she will never, never, never gaze again—oh I Capid, you have a lot to answer for, even the sin of attempting to drive love-lack maidens to the extremity of a tour round the world; the factious importunate lady who quite refused to join in satisfaction,—prouding, and so forth; the satisfactory Mr. Frisby, the miserly Mr. Soundy, (of Bombay), happened to be in England, and felt without a blush that I was safe upon this point, but I could not refrain from remarking, that I generally found my bankers were my best reference, and as I always made a large advance, when desired, without obtaining any strong security from the receivers, I thought that it would be much more reasonable for me to receive the references of others. The ladies first, certainly!—and I fear that I have devoted too much of my space to the softer sex. I shall be unable that way to give you a "talent," or a "pennyworth" of good things to scrobbles, whose letters, containing a full and varied description of their multitudinous gills are lying in that corner. They deserve a few remarks, and they shall have them at some other opportunity. Well, Madam Marie Ruzé's engagements are complete for some years to come; Madam Adeline Patti is in receipt of £800 for each concert at which she sings; Mr. Sims Reeves is about to retire from the stage for the fiftieth time; Mr. Santley is in Australia. Where, oh! where, am I to obtain my talent? I was never at a grand performance, either in music or dramatic, in London, and I have wished it were possible to transport me on the other side of the world to Babylon—London! What is there not to be seen, heard, or obtained there? But I ramble. Indeed, I have been rambling for twenty-five years, and yet have seen but an infinitesimal portion of what this world of ours contains. What did you say, dear? Lunch ready. All right, I am with you. Readers, adieu.

THOS P. HUDSON.

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(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

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